GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4660
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2000
BIOTECHNOLOGY
M.A. KHARABELA SWAIN

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which Biotechnology is going to make significant changes;

(b) the initiative taken by the Government to provide Research and Development in Bio-technology in these sectors; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent any misuse of bio-tech intellectuals ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) : Biotechnological research is going to make significant changes in the areas of agriculture, health, environment and industrial development.

(b): The scientific agencies and departments like Council of Scientific and Industrial Research(CSIR), Indian Council of Agricultura Research(ICAR), Indian Council of Mecical Research(ICMR), Department of Science & Technology(DST) and University Grant Commission(UGC) have been supporting research in biology and biotechnology from the very beginning. A systematic impetus was provided by establishing a National Biotechnology Board and subsequently in 1986, a separate Department of Biotechnology. During the years, grants for research and development projects, creation of infrastructural facilities, human resource development and large scale demonstration have successfully yielded results with a visible impact. Autonomous institutions in the areas of immunology, cell science, brain, plant genome research and DNA fingerprinting and diagnostics have been set up. Almost 200 projects are sanctioned every year in the identified areas by the Department of Biotechnlogy alone. Many incentives and awards have been instituted to encourage young students and scientists to join biotechnology research.

(c): The department has set up several committees for ensuring biosafety and bioethics in biotechnology research. Further, Patent Facilitating Cells in the Department of Biotechnology and also in other science departments have been established to encourage scientists in filing of patents in biotechnology to protect their intellectual property rights. Training programmes on IPR issues have been organised in consultation with World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and other scientific agencies.